

Please see below my intended report for the above, I have tried to keep it succinct as there will be, hopefully, a lot of other reports, comments welcome

2018/2019 has been a challenging year mainly due to uncertainty ie exactly what are the implications of the new organisation for Northants.

Having attended one of consultation meetings it quickly became apparent that this was a "done deal" ie the formation of two unitary bodies and Mears Ashby becoming part of the one containing Corby, East Northants, Kettering and Wellingborough.

The uncertainty is exactly what does this mean for our Parish, higher charges? Devolvement of services down to us? E.g. Refuse/litter, verge cutting. We have already seen the effects as regards Grit Bins, buses and libraries.

The Parish Council has endeavoured to try and build up a reserve going forward in order to meet some of these challenges and to look long term at ways in which maximise the small amount of income that we have.

One of these projects is the Street Lighting in Mears Ashby which is one of the major budgetary items.

It has been recognised for some time that the lights are inconsistent both in efficiency and reliability and this was highlighted by an increase in crime in the village.

To that end we decided at our December 2018 meeting to engage with the police in conducting a survey (see minutes) on the street lights and to have these discussed at a public meeting on crime Prevention in January at which a significant number of residents were present the output from this meeting was circulated.

Following this meeting a supplier then carried out an audit and provided a quote.

The Street lamp project, apart from increasing security, also meets the Government aim of reducing the carbon footprint and importantly reducing running costs and maintenance to the extent that after a few years will become self-funding.

The Council is at the stage now where we are engaging with funding sources, both charitable and government and hopefully will produce a fully funded and viable model.

Other projects this year:

- Mobile Speed Signs, and speed camera to meet the identified traffic calming needs
- C Heaton - Harris Meeting and S106 monies
- Village Hall Funding Clive Hallam
- Griffins Head Licence
- Completion of Hall farm development
- Applications for planning, ie Farm adjacent to Griffin, Caravan site
- Re whitening of street lines, re locating speed signs
- No elections this year, vacancy for a new councillor

I am sure that going forward we as a Parish will face further challenges but there could be upsides to reporting to a larger unitary body ie S106 monies